

October 6, 2006

EXHIBIT 18  
DATE 1-10-07  
HB 2

DPHHS-AMDD  
Joyce DeCunzo  
PO Box 202905  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Joyce,

The Great Falls Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) wholeheartedly endorses the AMDD budget proposal narrative of June 28, 2006.

In addition to the AMDD budget, we unanimously support the CSAA proposal for expansion of the 72-hour presumptive eligibility benefit, beyond hospitals, as well as expanded funding for the Mental Health Services Plan (MHSP).

In Cascade County 60% of new clients are MHSP as compared to 40% in the past. Without adequate MHSP funding, existing services will seriously be cut with potentially increased admissions to community hospitals and Warm Springs State Hospital.

Sincerely,

Joe Moll  
Chairman, Great Falls Mental Health Advisory Council

cc:

Joan Miles, Director, DPHHS  
John Chappius, Deputy Director, DPHHS  
Anna Whiting Sorrell, Policy Advisor to Governor Brian A. Schweitzer  
Trudi Schmidt, Presiding Officer, SJ 41 Interim Committee on Children & Families  
Tom Peluso, Chair, Central Service Area Authority